



RELATIVE PRONOUN AS A SYNTACTIC UNIT IN LANGUAGE SYSTEM

Xusanova Indira Akbardjanovna
English teacher Tashkent State Transport
University Department of Foreign Languages

Ishankulova Diyora Allovidinovna
English teacher Tashkent State Transport
University Department of Foreign Languages

Mansurova Shoxista Ismailovna
English teacher Tashkent State Transport
University Department of Foreign Languages

Bekembetova Zuhra Bekpolat kizi
English teacher Tashkent State Transport University
Department of Foreign Languages

Abstract

A peculiar group of pronominal lexemes is made up of the relative pronouns who, whom, which, that, whose, which are used only in subordinate clauses, performing an allied function in them. In other words, the syntactic connection between the subordinate and main clauses is carried out precisely through the relative pronoun, which introduces the subordinate clause.

Keywords: possessive, subordinating conjunction, main clause, syntactic semantics.

The relative pronoun, unlike the subordinating conjunction, acts as an elementary syntactic unit (often in combination with a preposition), which is in one or another syntactic connection with another elementary unit in the subordinate clause. Of such subordinate clauses, we will touch, first of all, those in which the relative pronoun has an antecedent in the main clause expressed by a noun or a pronoun; for example: The man who was here is an artist. This is the man whom I was speaking about. Take the book which is on the table. This is about all that he has to say. The tree under whose shade we are sitting.

The syntactic semantics of the studied pronouns in the subordinate clauses of this kind is determined primarily by the presence in the main clause of an antecedent denoting the substance that the relative pronoun also points to. This explains the very name of the pronoun, as well as the subordinate clause, which includes a relative pronoun. Using international terminology, we can say that the considered pronouns in the subordinate clauses of this kind are endowed with a syntactic-semantic feature relativity, i.e., represent relative (relative) syntaxemes.

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In addition, since, as just noted, the pronoun in the subordinate clause denotes the same substance as its antecedent in the main clause, relative syntaxemes also have a categorical syntactic-semantic feature of substantiality. These relational syntaxemes from the category of substantial, expressed by relative pronouns without prepositions or with prepositions, can be very different. In particular, they include: relative agentive (The letter that came yesterday, This is he that brought the news), relative object (This is the house that Jack built. During the years (that) he had spent abroad The man (that) you were looking for has come. The man (that) we are speaking about I was speaking about this man.(which) I chose. The country of which I was speaking) relative locative (The house in which he lives. The hotels at which we stayed), relative locative allative (The places to which we are going), relative instrumental (The pen (which) I was writing with) and others.

Substantial relative syntaxemes include both possessive and some other syntaxemes expressed by means of the pronoun whose: relative possessive (The man to whose wife I gave the money), relative possessive whole (The house whose windows are broken) and others.

As the above examples show, especially with the relative object syntaxeme expressed by the pronouns that, whom, which without a preposition or with the prepositions for, about, of, when studying systems of variants of substantial relative syntaxes, the researcher encounters a wide variety of means of their expression, the choice of which is dictated by various factors. In particular, this concerns the relative pronouns that, whom, which., the choice of which depends on whether they are capable of denoting animate or inanimate objects. For example, the pronouns that and whom can sometimes freely replace each other.

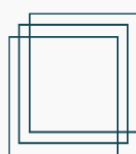
By themselves or in combination with a preposition, optional variants of the same relative object or other relative syntaxeme (in a dependent position), since the first of these pronouns is used to refer not only to inanimate, but also to animate objects; cf: The man that you were looking for has come → The man whom you were looking for has come, etc. The pronouns which and whom are usually not able to replace each other, since the first is used to refer only to inanimate, the second - only animate objects. Since there is this semantic difference between them, they can be classified as connotative variants of substantial relative syntaxes. The variety of means of expressing the latter is connected, however, not so much with the choice of the pronouns themselves (there are only a few of them), but with the choice of prepositions, together with which relative pronouns form inseparable units, although they are often located distantly in relation to each other. The “prepositional factor” is especially manifested in relation to the relative object syntaxeme, which can be expressed by a variety of prepositional combinations, and the choice of a preposition depends on which lexico-semantic group the transitive verb belongs to, in which this syntaxeme is used.



For example, in the presence of the transitive verb look “to look for”, the relative object syntaxeme is expressed by a combination of a pronoun with one preposition, while in the presence of a transitive verb speak “to speak”, a combination with another preposition: The man that you were looking for has come. This is the man whom I was speaking about, etc.

The “prepositional factor” also affects the fact that when expressing both relative object and other relative syntaxes in a dependent position, the preposition can occupy a different position, thereby increasing the number of possible options of these syntaxes: it can be used either at the very beginning of a subordinate clause, immediately preceding the relative pronoun whom or which (the pronoun that does not allow the use preposition before it), or at the end of the "subordinate clause, forming a discontinuous variant of the corresponding relative syntaxe. Often such pairs of combinations as about whom – whom about, of which - which of, with which – which with, act as optional (interchangeable) variants of a relative object, relative instrumental, or other relative_syntax, cf. This is the man about whom I was speaking → This is the man whom I was speaking about. which I was writing → The pen which I was writing with. However some factors, syntactic or otherwise, such as the large size of the subordinate clause, may prevent the use of one of these variants of the relative syntaxeme.

The variety of variants of substantive relative syntaxes is also due to the fact that along with the explicitly expressed non-prepositional variants "that, which, whom and prepositional discontinuous variants similar to those indicated above, there are also unexpressed, or zero. The existence of zero variants of substantive relative syntaxes is proved with the help of experiments that consist in replacing the zero variant with a non-zero variant of the same syntaxeme (cf. experiments-transformations of the second type): This is the book I chose → This is the book which I chose. The man you were looking for has come → The man that you were looking for has come. This is the man I was speaking about → This is the man whom I was speaking about. The pen I was writing with... → The pen which I was writing with...etc. x relative clauses. The very selection of zero variants of relative syntaxemes can serve as a basis for distinguishing between two series of substantial relative syntaxemes and, accordingly, two syntactic-semantic categories of relative clauses that include certain relative syntaxemes. One of these two lines is all the syntaxemes discussed above, which, in addition to the syntactic-semantic signs of substantiality and relativity common to all of them, also have a common limiting (restrictive) sign for them. This syntactic-semantic feature lies in the fact that the corresponding relative syntaxeme in the subordinate clause serves the purpose of limiting or clarifying what is indicated by the antecedent main offer.



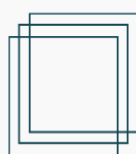
The limitative relative syntaxeme follows immediately after the antecedent in the main clause, not allowing the intonational separation of the subordinate clause, and this intonation fusion (without a pause) is manifested in the fact that in writing the subordinate clause is usually never separated from the main clause by a punctuation mark - a comma. As for the relative clauses of another kind, in which the relative syntaxeme is devoid of the sign of limiting, they do not have a close intonation connection with the main clause, and in writing they are usually separated by a comma from the main clause; compare: Three witnesses were called, who declared He struck his opponent, who promptly returned the blow. He looked like a retired general, which indeed he was. This fact, which I think you have forgotten, proves the contrary. In these examples we find three substantial relative syntaxemes: relative agentive (who in the first two clauses), relative identifying (which in combination with the linking verb was in the third clause), and relational object (which in the last clause), although generally speaking, there may be other substantive relational syntaxemes devoid of the sign of limitativity.

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